



15th November 2018

Fly-tipping statistics for England, 2017/18

This statistical notice provides statistics on fly-tipping incidents recorded by Local Authorities in England, for April 2017 to March 2018. It covers trends in the number of fly-tipping incidents, fly-tipping incidents by land type, waste type and size. It also covers enforcement and prosecution actions undertaken for fly-tipping incidents. It excludes the majority of private-land incidents and large scale incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency.

Key points

- For the 2017/18 year, local authorities **in England** dealt with just under **1 million (998,000) fly-tipping incidents, a slight decrease of 1%** from the 1,011,000 reported in 2016/17, following annual increases since 2013/14.
- **Two thirds (66%)** of fly-tips involved **household waste**. Total incidents involving household waste **decreased by 4%** from 2016/17.
- Consistent with previous years, the **most common place** for fly-tipping to occur was on **highways**, which accounted for **almost half (47%)** of total incidents in 2017/18. The number of highway incidents has **decreased by 7%** from 2016/17.
- As in the last few years, the **most common size category** for fly-tipping incidents in 2017/18 was equivalent to a **'small van load'** (33% of total incidents), followed by the equivalent of a **'car boot or less'** (28%).
- In 2017/18 34,000 or 4% of total incidents were of 'tipper lorry load' size or larger, which is similar to 2016/17. For these **large fly-tipping incidents**, the cost of clearance to local authorities in England in 2017/18 was **£12.2 million**, compared with £9.9 million in 2016/17. This increase was driven by an increase in the number of incidents in the largest size category of 'significant/multi loads'.
- Local authorities carried out **494,000 enforcement actions** in 2017/18, an **increase of 18,000 actions (4%)** from 2016/17.
- The number of **fixed penalty notices** issued has continued to increase, up **20% to 69,000** from 2016/17 and up 91% on 2015/16. This is the second most common enforcement action (after investigations), and accounted for **14%** of all enforcement actions in 2017/18.
- For 2017/18, 44% of local authorities in England voluntarily provided a **more detailed breakdown of fixed penalty notices** issued. For these local authorities, **11%** of fixed penalty notices were issued **specifically for small scale fly-tipping**, 52% in relation to littering and 37% in relation to other offences.

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Background on data reporting and data caveats

These statistics are based on fly-tipping incidents reported by local authorities in England, and exclude the majority of private-land incidents. Local authorities gather their data from a number of different sources, and data can often be collected and reported by separate teams, which may lead to discrepancies and some uncertainty. Improvements in data collection and reporting over time mean that trends should be interpreted with caution. Please note that due to higher numbers of incidents being reported as 'other unidentified' for land type and waste type in 2017/18, some caution is needed in the interpretation of year-on-year changes and longer term trends for individual categories. Further information about the data is available at the end of this release.

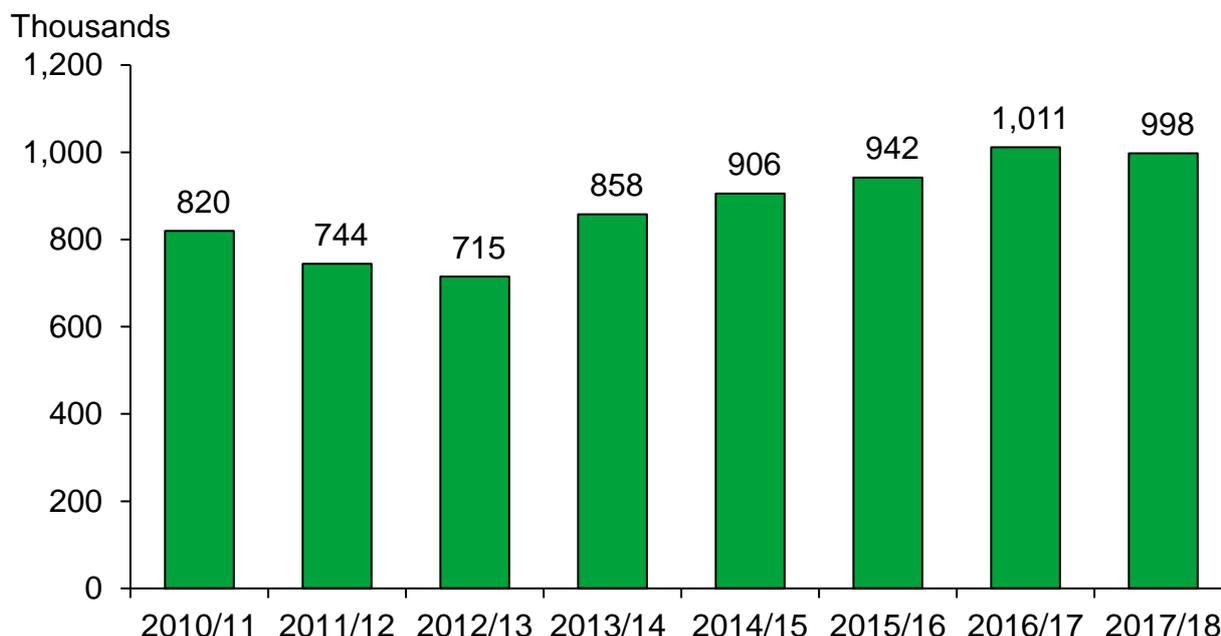
Data for each local authority, plus a time series for total incidents for each local authority, is available in a dataset to [download](#). Note: In assessing the figures, local authorities should not be classified as 'good' or 'poor' performers based purely on numbers of fly-tips. The position is complex and population density, housing stock and commuter routes, as well as reporting methodology, can all have an impact.

Revisions have been made to previous years' incidents data for Kirklees, Nottingham and Redbridge, as well as revisions to previous years' actions data for Brent, Croydon and Kirklees. Minor revisions were also made to 2013/14 national totals for some actions categories. See Revisions on page 14 for more detail.

There has been a change to the presentation of costs data in this release, as the standard unit costs used for the majority of clearance and enforcement categories are now more than 10 years out of date. Defra has taken the decision to cease using these from the 2017/18 release onwards and, for the time being, total cost estimates for fly-tipping clearance and enforcement will not be produced. The only costs published will be clearance costs for 'tipper lorry load' and 'significant/multi load' incident categories and enforcement costs for 'prosecutions' and 'injunctions' action categories, which are reported directly by local authorities. Further details are given in the Methodology section.

1. Trends in the total number of fly-tipping incidents in England

Figure 1.1. Trends in the total number of fly-tipping incidents in England, 2010/11 to 2017/18



Equivalent figures for 2007/08 to 2009/10 can be seen in the accompanying [dataset](#).

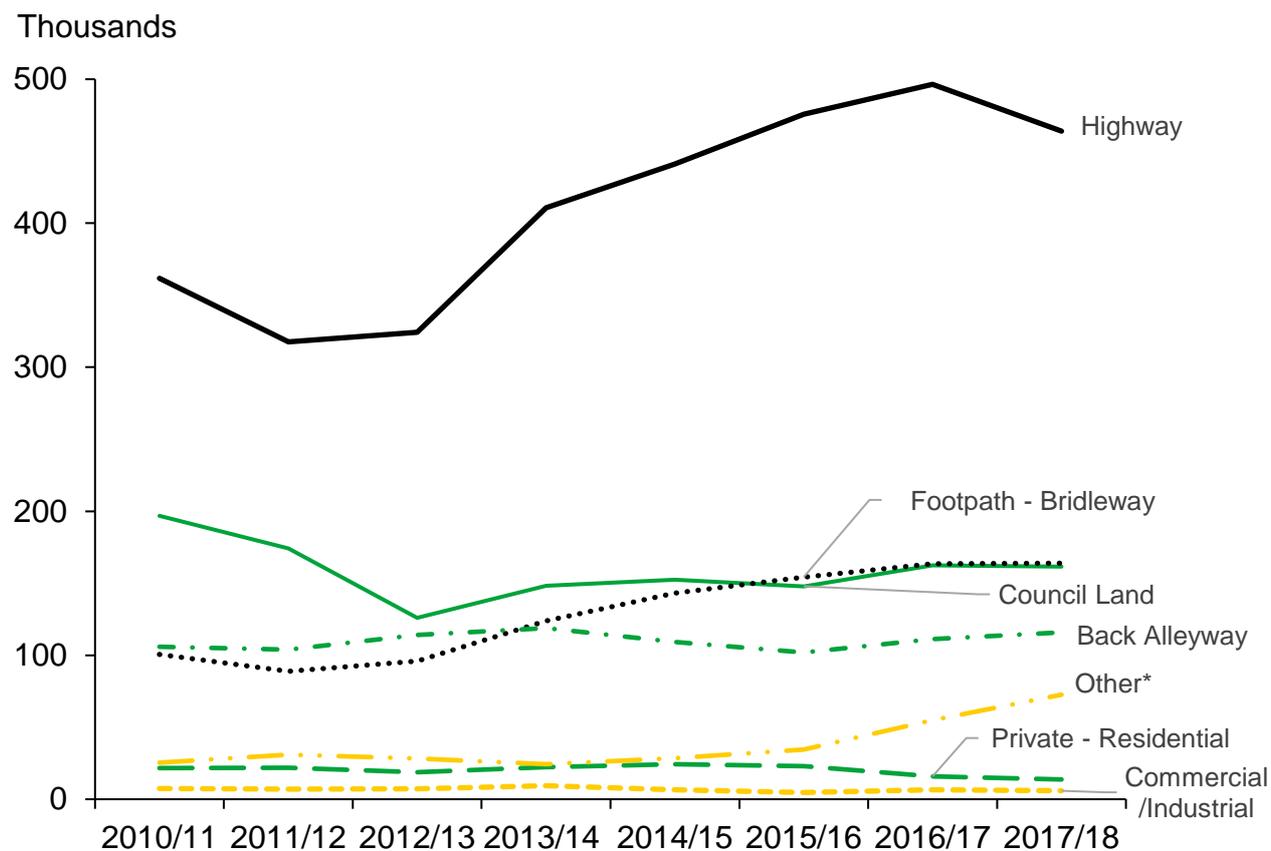
Incidents of fly-tipping had shown steady declines from 2007/08 until 2013/14, when there was an increase to 858,000 incidents. Since then, the number of fly-tipping incidents had been increasing year-on-year until 2017/18 when there were 998,000 incidents reported – a decrease of 1% from the previous year.

Many local authorities have started to improve the way they capture and report fly-tips over the past few years, so the changes over time should be interpreted with some care. Defra is also aware that the definitions used to describe fly-tips in the guidance are interpreted broadly by local authorities.

Incidents involving the Environment Agency or cleared by private landowners are not included in this Notice. Details of the 226 incidents of large-scale, illegal dumping dealt with by the Environment Agency in 2017/18 are published separately. Please see the [dataset](#) published by the Environment Agency.

2. Fly-tipping incidents in England by land type

Figure 2.1. Fly-tipping incidents in England by land type, 2010/11 to 2017/18

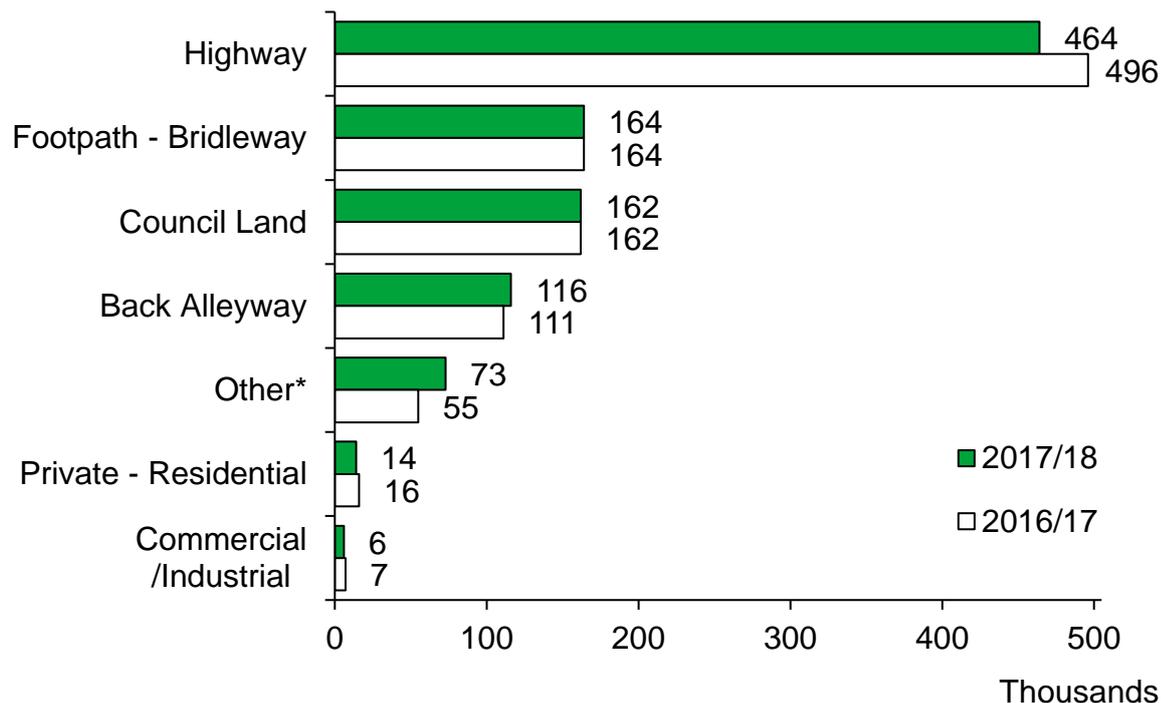


*Other includes agricultural, watercourse, railway and other unidentified land.

Equivalent figures for 2007/08 to 2009/10 can be seen in the accompanying [dataset](#).

The increase seen for 'Other' land types is largely driven by an increase in incidents reported as 'other unidentified', which are up by 16,000 (33%) on 2016/17. Therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting year-on-year changes and longer term trends for the other categories.

Figure 2.2. Fly-tipping incidents by land type in England, 2017/18, compared to 2016/17



*Other includes agricultural, watercourse, railway and other unidentified land.

Highways have consistently been the most common land type for fly-tipping incidents over time, accounting for almost half (47%) of all incidents in 2017/18. In 2017/18 there were 464,000 incidents, a decrease of 7% from 2016/17 (496,000 incidents).

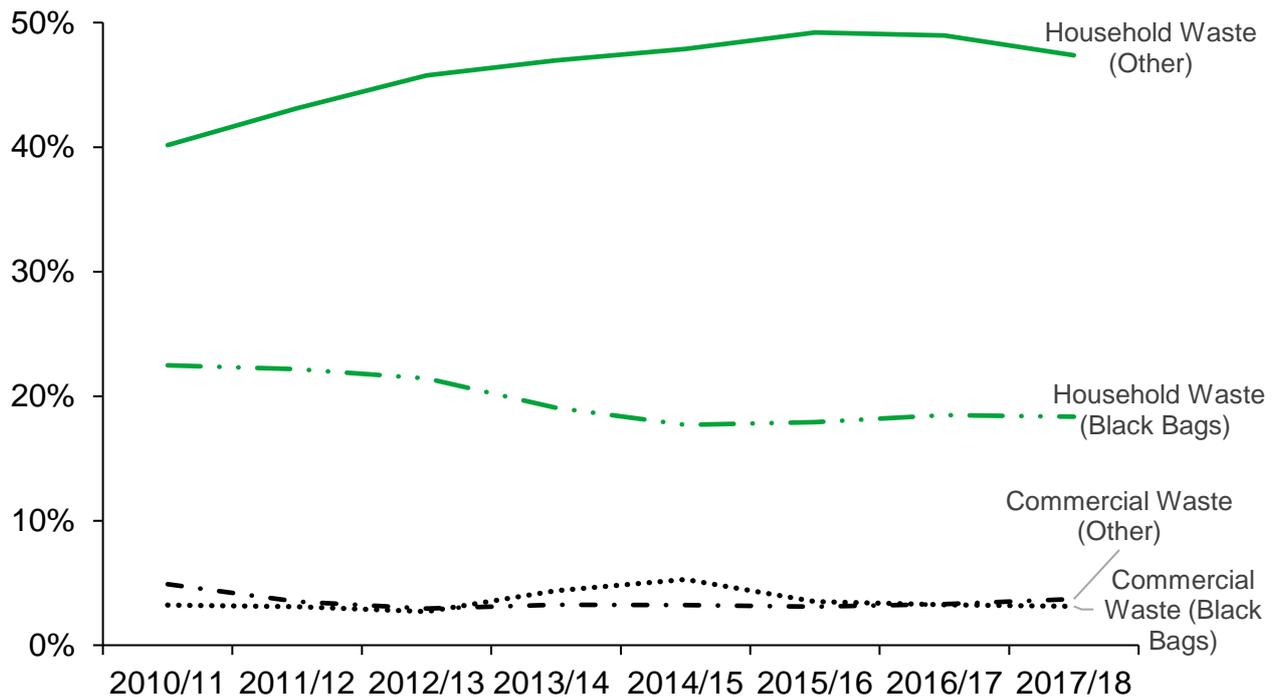
Fly-tipping on council land, and ‘footpaths and bridleways’, each made up another 16% of all incidents in 2017/18. Both council land and ‘footpath and bridleway’ incidents remained similar to 2016/17 at 162,000 and 164,000 incidents respectively.

Fly-tipping incidents in back alleyways amounted to a further 12% of all incidents (116,000 incidents) in 2017/18, an increase of 4% from the previous year.

3. Fly-tipping incidents in England by waste type

Note that there has been an increase in incidents reported as ‘other unidentified’ waste types in 2017/18, which are up by 24,000 (36%) on 2016/17. Therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting year-on-year changes and longer term trends for the other categories.

Figure 3.1. Household and commercial waste in England, 2010/11 to 2017/18 (% of total incidents)



Household waste (other) could include material from house or shed clearances, old furniture, carpets and the waste from small scale DIY works.

Commercial waste (other) could include pallets, cardboard boxes, plastics, foam and any other waste not contained in bags or containers and not due to be collected.

Equivalent figures for 2007/08 to 2009/10 can be seen in the accompanying [dataset](#).

Most fly-tipping incidents are household waste (the sum of 'black bags' and 'other'), which in 2017/18 accounted for two-thirds (66%) of all incidents. The majority of this was 'household waste (other)'.

Total household waste decreased by 4% from 682,000 incidents in 2016/17 to 656,000 incidents in 2017/18. The household waste sub-categories, 'black bags' and 'other' decreased by 4,000 incidents (2%) and 23,000 incidents (5%), respectively.

There were 68,000 incidents involving commercial waste in 2017/18, accounting for 7% of total incidents. This was a 3% increase on 2016/17, when 66,000 commercial waste incidents were reported.

The increase in total commercial waste incidents is accounted for by an increase in reported incidents of 'commercial waste (other)'. These increased by 11%, from 33,000 incidents in 2016/17 to 37,000 incidents in 2017/18. There were 31,000 incidents of commercial waste from black bags in 2017/18 – a decrease of 5% from the previous year.

Types of fly-tipping, other than household and commercial waste – which are construction, demolition and excavation; other unidentified; white goods; green waste; other electrical; tyres; vehicles parts; animal carcasses; chemical drums, oil and fuel; clinical; and asbestos – amount to 27% of all fly-tipping incidents. Within this, vehicle parts, animal carcasses, clinical waste, asbestos, and 'chemical drums, oil and fuel' incidents each account for less than 1% of total incidents.

Table 3.1. Types of fly-tipping other than household and commercial waste in England, 2010/11 to 2017/18

Year	Number of fly-tipping incidents by waste type						
	Other Unidentified	Construction, Demolition, Excavation	White Goods	Green Waste	Other Electrical	Tyres	Other Identified*
2010/11	57,000	50,000	29,000	35,000	24,000	20,000	25,000
2011/12	58,000	45,000	17,000	34,000	17,000	17,000	22,000
2012/13	53,000	42,000	14,000	32,000	17,000	14,000	22,000
2013/14	53,000	50,000	35,000	37,000	17,000	15,000	21,000
2014/15	57,000	50,000	43,000	35,000	16,000	14,000	20,000
2015/16	59,000	55,000	49,000	34,000	18,000	13,000	20,000
2016/17	67,000	55,000	56,000	32,000	17,000	13,000	22,000
2017/18	91,000	50,000	49,000	32,000	15,000	14,000	23,000

*Other Identified includes vehicle parts, animal carcasses, clinical waste, asbestos, and 'chemical drums, oil and fuel'. Equivalent figures for 2007/08 to 2009/10 can be seen in the accompanying [dataset](#).

Since 2016/17, the number of other unidentified waste type incidents has increased by 36%. This type of waste accounted for 9% of total incidents in 2017/18.

For some waste types, such as green waste or electrical goods, it is not always possible to tell whether they originated from households or businesses.

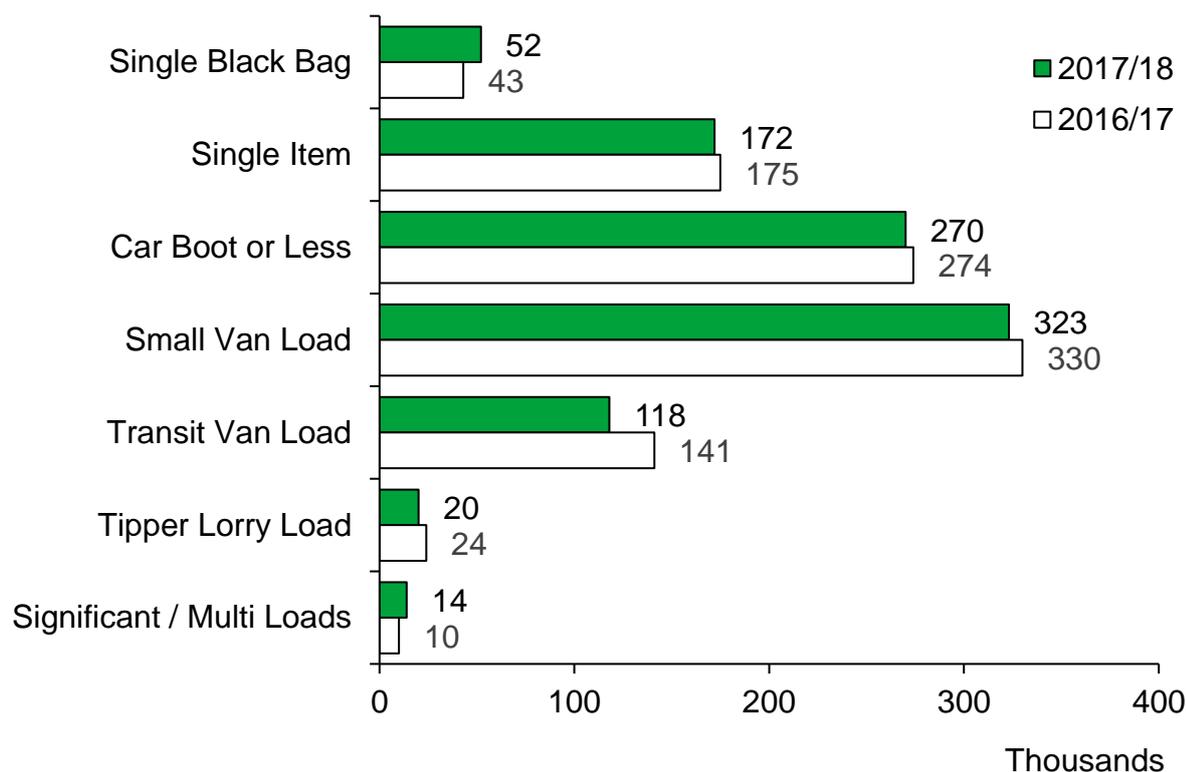
Incidents of white goods had been increasing each year since 2012/13 until 2017/18. The number of white goods incidents in 2017/18 was 49,000 – a decrease of 13% from the 56,000 incidents reported in 2016/17, so in line with incidents reported for 2015/16.

Since 2007/08, green waste has generally decreased over time, and accounted for 3% of total incidents in 2017/18. Similarly, tyre incidents have been generally declining since the start of this time series in 2007/08, and accounted for just 1% of total incidents in 2017/18.

Incidents with other electrical items have decreased by 11% since 2016/17, and incidents with construction/demolition/excavation material have decreased by 9%.

4. Fly-tipping incidents in England by size

Figure 4.1 Fly-tipping incidents by size in England 2017/18, compared to 2016/17



Incidents recorded by size category relate to those investigated and cleared by the local authority. For a number of reasons, but primarily due to incidents on private land, which an authority may not clear, total incidents by size category will not match total incidents recorded by location/type.

As in 2016/17, most fly-tipping incidents were equivalent to a 'small van load'. In 2017/18, a third of incidents (33% or 323,000 incidents) were reported to be the size of a small van load, a 2% decrease on 2016/17.

The second-largest size category is equivalent to a 'car boot or less'. Fly-tipping incidents of this size decreased slightly from 274,000 incidents in 2016/17 to 270,000 incidents in 2017/18, and made up 28% of all incidents.

'Single items', such as furniture, mattresses etc. accounted for 18% of total incidents and have decreased by 2%, from 175,000 incidents in 2016/17 to 172,000 in 2017/18.

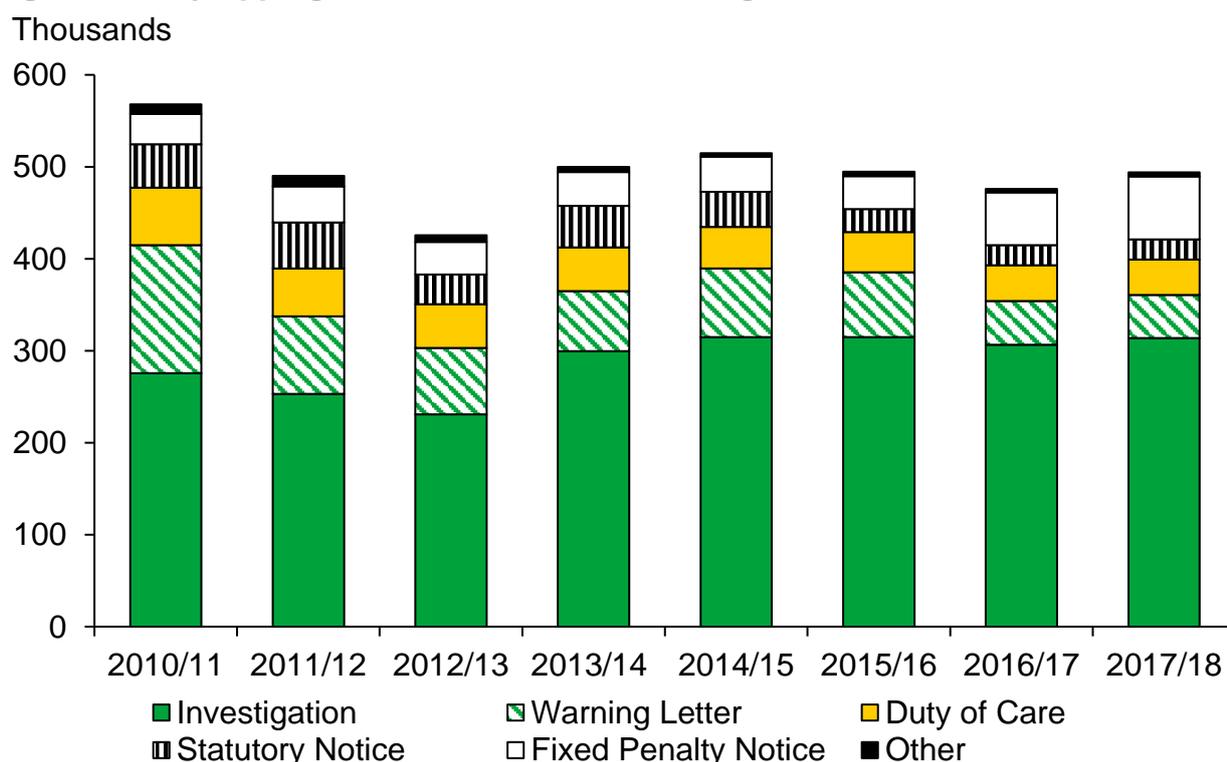
In 2017/18, 34,000 or 4% of total incidents were of 'tipper lorry load' size or larger, which is similar to 2016/17. For these large fly-tipping incidents, the cost of clearance to local authorities in England in 2017/18 was £12.2 million, compared with £9.9 million in 2016/17. This increase was driven by an increase in the number of incidents in the largest size category of 'significant/multi loads'.

Accurate clearance costs for the smaller fly-tipping categories are not available, but estimates for earlier years indicate that large incidents of 'tipper lorry load' size or larger account for around a fifth of total clearance costs to local authorities.

It should be noted that historic clearance costs for the majority of size categories (all except 'tipper lorry load' and 'significant/multi loads') are based on historical standard unit costs, which were provided by a small selection of local authorities between 2003 and 2006. They may therefore not fully represent the current costs of fly-tipping clearance to local authorities. As the standard unit costs are now more than 10 years out of date, the decision was taken to cease using these from the 2017/18 publication onwards. For the time being only costs for 'tipper lorry load' and 'significant/multi loads' will continue to be published while Defra investigates the possibility of updating the standard unit costs or alternative methodology.

5. Fly-tipping enforcement and prosecution

Figure 5.1. Fly-tipping enforcement actions in England, 2010/11 to 2017/18



'Other' is the sum of fixed penalty notices, stop and search, vehicles seized*, formal caution, prosecution and injunction. Note that data for vehicles seized is only available from 2011-12, so is not included in the 'other' category prior to this. Equivalent figures for 2007/08 to 2009/10 can be seen in the accompanying [dataset](#).

There were 494,000 enforcement actions carried out in England in 2017/18, a 4% increase (of 18,000 actions) since 2016/17 (note that multiple actions can sometimes be carried-out on one particular incident). Total enforcement costs have not been estimated for 2017/18 as accurate costs are not available for the majority of enforcement categories.

It should be noted that historic clearance costs for the majority of enforcement categories (all except 'prosecution' and 'injunction') are based on historical standard unit costs, which were provided by a small selection of local authorities between 2003 and 2006. They may therefore not fully represent the current costs of fly-tipping enforcement to local authorities. As the standard unit costs are now more than 10 years out of date, the decision was taken to cease using these from the 2017/18 publication onwards. For the time being only costs for 'prosecution' and 'injunction' actions will continue to be

published while Defra investigates the possibility of updating the standard unit costs or alternative methodology.

Investigation actions have consistently been the most common action taken against fly-tipping incidents over time, accounting for 64% of all enforcement actions in 2017/18, with 314,000 investigations in total. This is a 2% increase from 2016/17, when there were 307,000 investigation actions.

In May 2016 local authorities in England were given the power to issue fixed penalty notices for small scale fly-tipping. Prior to this date, local authorities issued fly-tippers with fixed penalty notices in relation to littering, duty of care or anti-social behaviour. The new fixed penalty notices give local authorities a more specific fixed penalty notice type, an alternative to prosecutions and a more efficient and proportionate response to small scale fly-tipping. Local authorities are still also using the previous fixed penalty notices as well as the new ones in appropriate circumstances.

From the 2018/19 reporting year onwards, it will be obligatory for local authorities to report a more detailed breakdown of fixed penalty notices issued. For 2017/18, 145 (44%) of the 326 local authorities in England provided this information voluntarily, representing 55% of total FPNs reported by all local authorities. For these 145 local authorities, 4,000 (11%) of fixed penalty notices were issued specifically for small scale fly-tipping, 19,000 (52%) in relation to littering and 14,000 (37%) in relation to other offences.

Local authorities issued 69,000 fixed penalty notices in total during 2017/18 and these were the second most common enforcement action, accounting for 14% of total actions. The total number of fixed penalty notices has increased by 20% from 57,000 in 2016/17, and by 91% from 36,000 in 2015/16. The number of prosecution actions has also increased (by 43%), from 1,571 in 2016/17 to 2,243 in 2017/18.

There were 47,000 warning letters issued in 2017/18, accounting for 9% of total enforcement actions. This was similar to the number of warning letters issued in 2016/17.

The number of duty of care inspections also remained consistent in 2017/18 at 39,000 actions. This accounted for 8% of total enforcement actions in both 2017/18 and 2016/17.

A total of 22,000 statutory notices were issued in 2017/18, accounting for 4% of total enforcement actions. As with warning letters and duty of care inspections, the number of statutory notices issued in 2017/18 was comparable to those issued in 2016/17.

Table 5.1. Fly-tipping prosecution outcomes in England, 2010/11 to 2017/18

	Fine	Absolute/ Conditional Discharge	Other (successful outcomes)*	Community Service	Custodial Sentence	Cases Lost	Total Prosecutions	Successful Prosecutions
2010/11	2,023	173	73	35	7	57	2,409	95.9%
2011/12	2,487	180	76	39	4	29	2,796	99.6%
2012/13	1,839	165	106	16	18	23	2,170	98.8%
2013/14	1,685	183	56	19	10	36	2,002	97.6%
2014/15	1,492	128	95	35	21	31	1,810	97.8%
2015/16	1,838	136	67	32	18	44	2,135	97.9%
2016/17	1,318	93	81	26	28	56	1,571	98.4%
2017/18	1,938	66	112	45	25	58	2,243	97.5%

Other successful: Any other positive results awarded by the court this period.

Successful prosecutions: Presented as a percentage of total prosecutions.

Equivalent figures for 2007/08 to 2009/10 can be seen in the accompanying [dataset](#).

Local authorities carried out a total of 2,243 prosecutions for fly-tipping offences in England in 2017/18, an increase of 43% on 2016/17. Costs of prosecution actions also increased, by 133% from £321,000 in 2016/17 to £747,000 in 2017/18.

The success rates for prosecution actions against fly-tipping are consistently very high over time. Over 97% of prosecutions resulted in conviction in 2017/18.

The majority of prosecution outcomes are fines, which were issued in 86% of the outcomes from actions taken against fly-tipping incidents in 2017/18. The number of fines issued increased by 47% to 1,938 in 2017/18, with the value of total fines increasing to £843,000 (an increase of 17% on the £723,000 total value of fines in 2016/17). The number of community service outcomes increased 73% from 26 in 2016/17 to 45 in 2017/18.

What you need to know about this release

Contact details

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Official Statistics

This is an Official Statistics publication. These statistics have been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which sets out eight principles including meeting user needs, impartiality and objectivity, integrity, sound methods and assured quality, frankness and accessibility. For more information, please see the [Official Statistics Code of Practice](#)

About these statistics

Fly-tipping is the illegal deposit of waste on land, contrary to Section 33(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Local authorities and the Environment Agency both have a responsibility in respect of illegally deposited waste. This includes local authorities and the Environment Agency collecting and reporting data on fly-tipping in their area. This statistical notice covers data reported by the local authorities in England.

User Statement

Data on fly-tipping is collected to inform policy making and to provide local authorities with a management tool which enables a problem solving approach to be taken. It records the number of fly-tipping incidents, the type of material tipped, location and size, together with enforcement action taken. The data are used by local and central government, researchers and the public.

Context

Fly-tipping is a significant blight on local environments; a source of pollution; a potential danger to public health; a hazard to wildlife and a nuisance. It also undermines legitimate waste businesses where unscrupulous operators undercut those operating within the law.

Local authorities and the Environment Agency both have a responsibility in respect of illegally deposited waste. Local authorities have a duty to clear fly-tipping from public land in their areas and consequently they deal with the vast majority of fly-tipping on public land, investigating these and carrying out a range of enforcement actions. The Environment Agency is responsible for dealing with large-scale, serious and organised illegal dumping incidents which pose an immediate threat to human health or the environment. Flycapture used to be the database for local authorities and the Environment Agency to report fly-tipping. However Flycapture has now been replaced by the Fly-tipping Module in WasteDataFlow which became live on 1st October 2015. Responsibility for dealing with fly-tipping on private land rests with private landowners and is not subject to mandatory data reporting.

Incidents involving the Environment Agency or cleared by private landowners are not included in this Notice. Details of the 226 incidents of large-scale, illegal dumping dealt

with by the Environment Agency in 2017/18 are published separately. Please see the [dataset](#) published by the Environment Agency.

The Environment Agency has worked with authorities to improve reporting quality and has produced guidance to reduce the possibility of double counting in authority returns. This can occur for example when an incident is recorded at the point a local authority is notified and also by a waste management contractor who clears up the fly-tip.

Methodology

These statistics are based on the returns made to the Fly-tipping Module in the [WasteDataFlow](#) database by local authorities in England from April 2017 to March 2018. The Fly-tipping Module is the national system used from 2015 to record the incidents and cost of clearing and enforcing against illegally deposited by local authorities and the Environment Agency. [Detailed guidance](#) is available on the use of WasteDataFlow. Private landowners are not required to report fly-tips on their land although some choose to do so voluntarily.

It should be noted that the private land data included in this notice do not reflect the full scale of the problem as most cases on private land go unreported.

Local authorities gather their data from a number of sources and departments. Incidents are reported by the public through call centres, operatives on the ground collecting and recording, Enforcement Officers, contractors and management companies. Many authorities await verification from investigations before recording public reports as fly-tips.

Data is requested in respect of incidents cleared or investigated by local authorities and, separately, the enforcement actions taken against fly-tippers. These can often be collected and reported by separate teams. Therefore data can be entered onto the system by one or more persons within an authority. This may lead to some discrepancies and a level of uncertainty. Data verification and quality assurance is carried out by WasteDataFlow personnel and Defra. This is done by a quarterly check of specific aspects of the data to identify significant anomalies which would be queried with authorities.

Until 2017/18, estimate costs for the majority of clearance and enforcement categories were calculated based on typical unit costs for dealing with the different types of incidents/actions. Costs were provided by a small selection of local authorities between 2003 and 2006 when the Flycapture database was being set up. These were used to generate standard unit costs for the clearance and enforcement categories, which were then multiplied up by the numbers of incidents and enforcement actions respectively in order to generate total cost estimates. The standard unit costs used are detailed in the accompanying notes to the published datasets.

In August 2015 Defra undertook an exercise to update the cost basis by surveying 100 local authorities that had previously indicated a willingness to participate. Unfortunately both the quantity and quality of response data was insufficient to provide robust factors as replacements. During 2017, Defra carried out some preliminary investigations to source updated costs, but concluded that more targeted and detailed work is required to properly understand the complexities surrounding costs to local authorities. As the standard unit costs are now more than 10 years out of date, the decision has been taken to cease using these from the 2017/18 publication onwards. For the time being only

costs for clearance categories 'tipper lorry load' and 'significant/multi loads', and enforcement categories 'prosecutions' and 'injunctions' (which are reported directly by local authorities) will continue to be published. Defra is currently considering the feasibility of updating the standard unit costs via research or alternative methodology, subject to resource and other priorities.

Detailed breakdowns

A breakdown of data for each local authority is available on the [Defra website](#). In assessing the figures local authorities should not be classified as 'good' or 'poor' performers based purely on numbers of fly-tips. Direct comparison between local authorities may not be appropriate as there can be some differences in approach, where there is a level of discretion in using the guidance on reporting. The situation is complex and can be influenced by population density, housing stock, demographics, commuter routes, the rigour with which local authorities identify incidents or encourage the public to report incidents, training of street crews, and increased use of more sophisticated methods for capturing and reporting incidents. Those reporting higher incident numbers are often those taking the issue seriously and being rigorous in identifying incidents. Large authorities may have large enforcement teams using modern, sophisticated methods (covert surveillance, SmartWater) to catch professional fly-tippers. Trends over time for a particular local authority may be a fairer comparison and a time series of total incidents for each local authority is available for download. There can be relatively high variation between years and between local authorities.

As part of enquiries made as part of the quality assurance process, several authorities reported that the increase in the number of incidents reported compared to previous years was a result of the introduction of new technologies; such as on-line reporting and electronic applications as well increased training for staff and a more pro-active approach to removing fly-tipping and have explained this as a factor in the increase in the number of incidents reported. For reasons explained about variability of reporting by local authorities please see the [dataset](#) showing the trend in total number of incidents by local authority since 2012/13.

Defra are aware that for the 2017/18 year, two local authorities have provided figures based on customer-reported fly-tips with what they consider to be in line with other local authorities, whereas in some previous years they have provided figures based on all incidents of fly-tipping. Customer-reported fly-tips for these two local authorities have been included at local-authority-level in the dataset, but national totals include estimates for total fly-tips to ensure the headline totals are reported on a basis that is consistent with the rest of the timeseries.

Non-response and estimation

Redbridge did not submit data for quarter four, so an estimate was made by Defra for this quarter. Estimates were made based on the proportions of Redbridge's data from the first three quarters of 2017/18.

For 2017/18, 10 of the 326 local authorities did not submit data on clearance costs for 'tipper lorry load' and/or 'significant/multi load' incidents. These were estimated by Defra based on previous years' data where the figures were consistent or showed a consistent trend over time, or otherwise using average 2017/18 unit costs from the known returns. These 10 local authorities were Bristol, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, North Somerset, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Rochdale, Sheffield, West Dorset, and Windsor and Maidenhead.

Due to a higher level of estimation made in 2015/16, along with further estimations made in 2016/17 and 2017/18, some caution is needed in the interpretation of year-on-year changes and longer term trends.

Feedback

We welcome feedback on the data from all users including how and why the data is used. This helps us to understand the value of the statistics to external users. Please see our contact details at the bottom of the first page of this notice.

Revisions Policy

Defra will provide information about any revisions made to published information in this statistics release and the associated datasets. Revisions could occur for various reasons, including when data from third parties is unavailable or revised data has been input to the Fly-tipping Module of WasteDataFlow.

Prior to the release of this publication, three local authorities contacted Defra to make some revisions to their data. Kirklees made revisions to their incidents and actions data for year 2016/17 and Nottingham made revisions to their incidents data from 2012/13 to 2016/17 – both authorities indicated that the revisions were a result of improved measures and tools for recording. Nottingham were unable to provide any breakdown of their incidents by land-type, waste-type or size for any of their revised data, so Defra estimated these using Nottingham's proportions from 2017/18. Brent made revisions to their number of fixed penalty notices issued in 2016/17, which in-turn impacted the total number of enforcement actions and estimated costs.

Defra also noticed some inconsistencies between historic published data and the data that has been entered onto WasteDataFlow for two local authorities. Redbridge did not submit data for quarter three of 2016/17, so an estimate was made by Defra for this quarter. Estimates were made based on the proportions of Redbridge's data from the other three quarters of 2016/17. Croydon had recorded that 141 prosecution actions occurred in 2015/16, but only 58 prosecution actions had been published. Defra have therefore revised this in the current release, which in-turn impacted the total number of enforcement actions. Minor revisions were also made to 2013/14 national totals for 'vehicles seized' and 'formal caution actions'.